

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	60301	Agenda Number	70.
Meeting Date:	8/18/2016		Department:	Watershed Protection
Subject				
Approve a resolution authorizing the application for a grant from the Texas Water Development Board in the amount of up to \$100,000 for 50 percent of the cost for improvements to the public website www.ATXfloods.com .				
Amount and Source of Funding				
A grant funding opportunity in the amount of \$100,000 is available from the Texas Water Development Board. A funding match of \$100,000 is required and is available in the Fiscal Year 2017 Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection Department. Total funding for the project is \$200,000.				
Fiscal Note				
There is no fiscal note required.				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:				
For More Information:	Kevin Shunk, P.E., (512) 974-9176; Susan Janek, P.E., (512) 974-3327			
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:				
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				

Additional Backup Information

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) offers flood protection grants to assist local governments. The purpose of this grant is to provide assistance to political subdivisions to implement preventive and/or corrective measures for reducing loss of life and property. The TWDB’s grant information states, “The TWDB is placing a high priority on enhancing the abilities of communities to warn citizens and respond to flood emergencies in a timely and effective manner.” The TWDB grant program is funded at \$2,000,000. Grant applications must include a resolution stating the City’s intent to accept grant funding and comply with grant administrative requirements.

The Watershed Protection Department has submitted a grant application to the TWDB in the total project amount of \$200,000 (\$100,000 matching funds from the City) for improvements to the public website www.atxfloods.com. This website provides up-to-date status of Austin’s and the surrounding communities’ flooded low water crossings. If this resolution is approved and if the City is awarded the grant, then the money will go towards making several improvements to the www.atxfloods.com website. Improvements include creating a more efficient administrator dashboard for timely updating of the website, a database of road closures for all entities, and improvements to the mobile website. The improvements will be completed by the City’s Innovation Office using their Innovative Fellows program. They will hire experienced programmers and designers to make the necessary improvements. Coordination will also include working with the Capital Area Council of Governments Regional Technology Workgroup.

Should the City be selected for the grant, then the Watershed Protection Department will make the necessary budget amendment requests through Council just after the time of the award.